

Our **Virtual**

PowerGroup

Messy
Week 2 Study

Icebreaker

Talk about a time when you were in a messy place and weren't sure of the way out. What happened? ?

Passage 1 John 8:1-6

We've all made messes in our lives. It's something we all have in common. One misconception is that the Christian life is all about avoiding messes. But that's not true. Following Christ isn't about avoiding something; it's about becoming something. We hope you discover that Christianity is not about you attempting to stay clean, but that Jesus is willing to step into the mess to clean you up. In the story of the adulterous woman, Jesus steps into the situation to save her, redeem her, and begin to clean up her messes.

Reflection How must have this woman felt with her sin being exposed for others to see?

Have you ever found yourself in a mess that others saw? What did you want more than anything at that moment?

Passage 2 John 8:7-11

Place yourself in this scene. What would be the emotions of the woman as she is "caught in the act" of adultery? As she is marched to the temple court? What would you be thinking as part of the crowd gathered around Jesus when this scene unfolds? What is the emotional element gripping the woman's accusers?

Reflection After Jesus comments in verse 7, why do you think the Pharisees and teachers leave rather than stone the woman?

What is the significance of Jesus' question to the woman in verse 10?
What was Jesus' attitude toward her?

Was he condoning the woman's sin by not condemning her in verse 11?

How does the way Jesus treated this woman help you face some of the sins you struggle with? Does that free you to change? Why?

Passage 3 Matthew 11:28-30

Sometimes we assume that being a Christian would be much too difficult, that we could never measure up to what Jesus is asking us to do. The truth is, we can't follow Christ in our strength. When we try to live on our own, we make a mess. We can't do it alone, but Jesus doesn't ask us to. He always is there offering His presence, His strength and His help to live lives transformed by His grace."

Reflection What does this passage instruct us to do?

How do you find rest physically? Spiritually?

Why is it that we are able to rest when we are with Jesus?

What does Psalm 46 promise us that God is doing while we are resting?

What is it that we must do in order to learn from Jesus?

Application

The only way for God to begin to clean up our messes is by coming to Jesus and being honest about the messes we have created. We often hide in embarrassment because of the shame we feel when our mess is exposed. However, we see from this study that God does not want to condemn us, but to save us. Jesus does not condemn this woman, he spares her and show her grace!

What is one thing you can do this week to begin to attune your heart to what God is doing in you? How can this group support you and hold you accountable?